

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Zimmerman, John P.
HIROSHI TANIUCHI, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2809
Appln. No.: 10/524,030)	
	:	Confirmation No. 4853
Filed: February 9, 2005)	
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING PROCESS AND)	
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	July 11, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated June 11, 2007.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the subject application contains three patentably distinct inventions. Per the Office Action, Group I includes Claims 1-13, Group II includes Claim 14, and Group III includes Claims 15 and 16. The Examiner asserts that the inventions of Groups I, II, and III are not related as a single general inventive concept.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the three groups are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-13.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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